



## **Spring Creek Watershed Association Meeting**

February 21st, 2017

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Patton Township Municipal Building  
100 Patton Plaza, State College PA 16803

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **1. 7:30 AM to 7:40 AM: Welcome & Introductions**

Attendees: Bill Sharp, Barbara Fisher, Bob Vierck, Todd Giddings, Dave Smith, Cory Miller, Nick MacelKo, Dave Whiteman, Rob Cooper, Bob Eberhart, Mike Schmidt, Deb Nardone

Introduction - This is a planning meeting picking up off of the SCWC's last meeting. At the SCWC meeting, Bill provided a draft summary of the 2003 Phase 1 watershed plan. The group also discussed mission/vision statements, goals for the plan, stakeholders and leadership for the technical and steering committees. The notes from this watershed discussion were presented to the group.

#### **2. No Educational Topic**

#### **3. 8:30 – 8:45 AM: Association Business**

- a. Atlas Progress Report – The workgroup's next meeting is this Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- b. Watershed Management Plan

#### Water vs. Watershed

Bob Eberhart initiated a discussion as to whether the plan we were discussing was intended to focus on water or the entire watershed. The group understood that land use can impact surface and groundwater, so felt that the entire watershed needs to be included in the plan.

Cory Miller mentioned that there were two strategies to dealing with groundwater. You can either make sure you have really good groundwater or you can treat your groundwater before drinking it.

Rob Cooper described Penn State's new treatment plant for their groundwater supply. During storm events, surface water would impact the groundwater of certain wells. Previously, they had to shut off these wells once the water reached a certain turbidity level. Now, all of the water will be sent to a single treatment facility before reaching the public. This will make sure that wells do not have to be shut off.

Bill Sharp discussed how there are emergency management plans in place to deal with major events like spills.



### Opportunity with the State Water Plan?

Todd informed the group that the State Water Plan requires that Critical Area Resource Plans must be revisited every five years. Not only is this plan past due for this revisit, but the Spring Creek Watershed has ranked as the top Critical Water Planning Area in the greater Upper Middle Susquehanna basin.

### DCNR Funding

There was a large discussion on whether the plan should seek funding from the DCNR C2P2 grant. There was agreement that money and unbiased technical support would be very beneficial to the process, but there was uncertainty as to whether we were ready to start this year or if a Rivers Conservation Plan was an appropriate plan.

In trying to approach applying for the grant, Denny attempted to write a letter of support for the grant that municipalities could sign. In doing so, he came up with a list of questions that he felt needed to be answered (attached). Because answering these questions and logistically pulling together all of the stakeholders will take a lot of time and resources, the group decided that waiting for next year's grant was the best option. There could also be an option of undertaking a Critical Resource Plan in conjunction with a Rivers Conservation Plan.

### Public and Municipal Support

There was also discussion on how to get public and municipal support for this type of a project. In the past, people were most likely to be engaged in watershed activity during time of immediate crisis. Since there is no immediate threat, will people care? However, Den Nardone noted that there is some discussion going on in the community related to the rate that State College is growing. Since a goal of this plan would be to maintain our quality of life and growth while also maintaining a healthy watershed, Bill Sharp believed some people who are anti-growth may not support the plan. The group agreed that public forums would be important in both understanding the public perspective and gaining their support. Cory Miller noted that because we have so many municipalities and we are the headwaters of our watershed, there will be different issues that need to be addressed in different municipalities. Any letter of support to the municipalities should include things that are important to all municipalities. There was agreement that letters should be brought in by the SCWC representative of that municipality and that a list of talking points would also be important.

## **4. Approval of Minutes**

Bob Vierck moved to approve the minutes from the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Rob Cooper seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.



## SPRING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

*A grassroots stakeholder initiative*

### 5. Partner Updates

*Bob Vierck, Trout Unlimited-* TU is holding its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Fundraiser on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center from 5:30-9:30PM. This year's Bid for a Cause will be donated to ClearWater Conservancy's Slab Cabin Run Initiative.

*Todd Giddings-* Penn State's Bryan Swistock is organizing this year's PA Ground Water Symposium which will be held at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center sometime in early May.

### 6. Next Meeting: March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

- a. Bob Vierck moved to adjourn the meeting. Rob Cooper seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:36AM.